

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, S. 3510, the Disaster Resiliency Planning Act, was introduced by my colleague and counterpart in the Senate, Chairman GARY PETERS, along with Senator RICK SCOTT, and it passed the Senate by unanimous consent in June. Our colleague, Representative TROY CARTER, is leading companion legislation in the House, which is also bipartisan.

This commonsense, bipartisan bill takes action to implement an important recommendation made by the Government Accountability Office last year. In 2021, GAO issued a report on the efforts of Federal agencies to be responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars by mitigating the impact of natural disasters on Federal property and assets like buildings, roads, bridges, and levees.

In the 5 years leading up to the report, billions of taxpayer dollars were spent repairing the damage done to Federal assets by natural disasters, and current trends demonstrate that the frequency and severity of natural disasters are increasing as a result of climate change.

As the largest real property owner in the United States, the Federal Government's fiscal exposure to natural disasters is deeply concerning. The Federal Government lacks a comprehensive, strategic approach to resilience, which is key to addressing this risk and protecting taxpayer dollars.

Fortunately, agencies have made good progress in creating action plans that identify extreme weather vulnerabilities and steps that can be taken to address them. GAO's report recommended the crucial next step that agencies should be directed to incorporate these assessments into their asset management investment decisions.

That recommendation remains open today, but this bipartisan bill will ensure that it finally gets done. Within 180 days, OMB would be required to establish guidance for the incorporation of natural disaster resilience into the real property asset management and investment decisions of Federal agencies. As recommended by GAO, agencies would be required to incorporate their natural disaster risk information assessments into such decisions.

This commonsense, good government bill has been informed by years of GAO analysis and will protect taxpayer dollars by prioritizing cost-effective resilience strategies. We must implement

these action plans before the next superstorm or wildfire deals yet another blow to our Federal assets.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 3510, the Disaster Resiliency Planning Act.

Hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, and wildfires cause significant damage across the country to Federal real property assets. According to the Government Accountability Office, over the past 5 years, Congress has spent billions of dollars to repair Federal assets damaged by natural disasters. Yet, for decades, Federal agencies have made minimal efforts to prepare for natural disasters and make their real property assets more resilient. This is unacceptable.

Billions in taxpayer dollars have been wasted to repair assets left unprepared in the face of reoccurring and predictable risk posed by natural disasters and extreme weather events.

Natural disasters are a fact of life, and the U.S. Government maintains a sprawling footprint of buildings and facilities across our great Nation. We must recognize these realities. The Disaster Resiliency Planning Act does this.

It tasks the Office of Management and Budget with issuing guidance requiring Federal agencies to incorporate natural disaster resilience planning into their real property asset management and investment decisions. This will help save taxpayer dollars and ensure Federal agencies are acting in a fiscally responsible manner.

Mr. Speaker, this is a commonsense, bipartisan bill that will save taxpayer dollars and ensure Federal property recovers from natural disasters more quickly.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of S. 3510, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 3510.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1730

METROPOLITAN AREAS PROTECTION AND STANDARDIZATION ACT OF 2021

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend

the rules and pass the bill (S. 1941) to direct the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to standardize the use of core-based statistical area designations across Federal programs, to allow between 120 and 180 days for public comment on any proposed change to such designations, and to report on the scientific basis and estimated impact to Federal programs for any proposed change to such designations, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1941

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Metropolitan Areas Protection and Standardization Act of 2021" or the "MAPS Act of 2021".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Federal programs use core-based statistical area delineations to determine the delivery of Federal services, benefits, and funding to people in the United States, such as in criteria for eligibility or distribution.

(2) Core-based statistical area delineations provide a nationally consistent set of standards for collecting, tabulating, and publishing Federal statistics for geographic areas, and they are not intended for any public or private sector non-statistical uses such as program administration or service delivery.

(3) Updates to core-based statistical area delineations may cause widespread disruption to the delivery of Federal services, benefits, and funding to people in the United States based on the reliance of Federal programs on these delineations.

(4) There does not exist any comprehensive list of Federal programs that rely on core-based statistical area delineations. Such a list is valuable for the study of how Federal services, benefits, and funding are distributed to people in the United States.

(5) Increased transparency on the impacts of any update to core-based statistical area delineations may be overly burdensome due to the anticipated variety of Federal programs that rely on these delineations. Any requirement for complete disclosure of these impacts prior to implementation of new delineations may unintentionally cause the existing delineations to ossify.

(6) In order to prevent any disruption to service delivery of Federal programs based on updates to core-based statistical area delineations, and ensure the independence of Federal statistical policymaking, Congress must sever the link between future updates to core-based statistical area delineations and any automatic impact on Federal programs that rely on these delineations.

SEC. 3. PURPOSE.

This purpose of this Act is to ensure—

(1) transparency in how core-based statistical area delineations are used in domestic assistance programs; and

(2) independence of the Office of Management and Budget in establishing and updating core-based statistical area delineations.

SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) AGENCY.—The term "agency" has the meaning given the term in section 551 of title 5, United States Code.

(2) COMPTROLLER GENERAL.—The term "Comptroller General" means the Comptroller General of the United States.

(3) CORE-BASED STATISTICAL AREA.—The term "core-based statistical area" has the

meaning given the term by the Office of Management and Budget in the Notice of Decision entitled “2020 Standards for Delineating Core-Based Statistical Areas”, published in the Federal Register on July 16, 2021 (86 Fed. Reg. 37770), or any successor to that Notice.

(4) **DIRECTOR.**—The term “Director” means the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

(5) **DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**—The term “domestic assistance program” has the meaning given the term in section 6101 of title 31, United States Code.

(6) **OPEN GOVERNMENT DATA ASSET.**—The term “open Government data asset” has the meaning given the term in section 3502 of title 44, United States Code.

SEC. 5. NON-PROPAGATION OF CORE-BASED STATISTICAL AREA DELINEATIONS.

(a) **AMENDMENT.**—Chapter 63 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“§ 6309. Non-propagation of core-based statistical area delineations

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Beginning on the date of enactment of the MAPS Act of 2021, and notwithstanding any other provision of law, any change to the standards of core-based statistical area delineations pursuant to section 3504(e) of title 44—

“(1) shall not propagate automatically for any non-statistical use by any domestic assistance program, including any such use as required through—

“(A) statutory reference to any core-based statistical area delineation; or

“(B) administrative or regulatory reference to any core-based statistical area delineation; and

“(2) shall propagate for any non-statistical use by any domestic assistance program only—

“(A) if a relevant agency determines that such a propagation—

“(i) supports the purposes of the program; and

“(ii) is in the public interest; and

“(B) through affirmative adoption through notice-and-comment rulemaking pursuant to section 553 of title 5.

“(b) **DEFINITIONS.**—The definitions in section 4 of the MAPS Act of 2021 shall apply to this section.”

(b) **TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—The table of sections for chapter 63 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 6308 the following:

“6309. Non-propagation of core-based statistical area delineations.”

SEC. 6. TRANSPARENCY OF NON-STATISTICAL USES OF CORE-BASED STATISTICAL AREA DELINEATIONS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 6102(a)(2) of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraph (G) as subparagraph (H);

(2) in subparagraph (F), by striking “and” at the end; and

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (F) the following:

“(G) uses of core-based statistical area (as defined in section 4 of the MAPS Act of 2021) delineations (as chosen from standardized categories of uses determined by the Director), for purposes including prime recipient and subrecipient eligibility for, and distribution of, any Federal service, benefit, or funding; and”.

(b) **CONTENT REQUIREMENTS.**—In collecting and reviewing the information required under section 6102(a)(2)(G) of title 31, United States Code, as amended by subsection (a) of this section, the Director shall include as standardized categories—

(1) whether the most current core-based statistical area delineation has been affirma-

tively adopted pursuant to section 6309 of title 31, United States Code, as added by this Act;

(2) which historical core-based statistical area delineation was maintained, in cases where an updated delineation has not been affirmatively adopted pursuant to section 6309 of title 31, United States Code, as added by this Act;

(3) what purpose the core-based statistical area delineation serves, including—

(A) to determine eligibility for any Federal service, benefit, or funding;

(B) to determine distribution of any Federal service, benefit, or funding; and

(C) any other standardized category of purpose determined by the Director;

(4) whether the use of core-based statistical area delineation directly concerns any—

(A) prime recipient of any Federal service, benefit, or funding; and

(B) subrecipient of any Federal service, benefit, or funding; and

(5) the date when the information collected in this subsection was last updated.

(c) **ACCESSIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.**—The Director shall ensure that the information collected and reviewed under section 6102(a)(2)(G) of title 31, United States Code, as amended by subsection (a) of this section, shall be—

(1) publicly accessible as an open Government data asset;

(2) presented in a user-friendly visual format with search and download capabilities;

(3) easily discoverable by the public on relevant government websites; and

(4) updated not less frequently than once every year.

(d) **IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE.**—The requirements of this section shall be fully implemented not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 7. INDEPENDENCE, INTEGRITY, AND ACCOUNTABILITY OF CORE-BASED STATISTICAL AREA DELINEATIONS.

Section 3504(e) of title 44, United States Code, is amended by—

(1) in paragraph (8)(B)(ii), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in paragraph (9)(B), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(10) ensure that any change to the standards of core-based statistical area (as defined in section 4 of the MAPS Act of 2021) delineations pursuant to this subsection shall—

“(A) be accompanied by a public report that explains—

“(i) the scientific basis, criteria, and methodology for such change to existing standards, including clear quantitative thresholds for determining any future statistical re-delineations; and

“(ii) the opinions of domestic and international experts in statistics and demographics, including government experts at the Bureau of the Census and other relevant agencies, who were consulted regarding such change to existing standards;

“(B) not be influenced by any non-statistical considerations such as impact on program administration or service delivery; and

“(C) not propagate automatically for any non-statistical use by any domestic assistance program (as defined in section 4 of the MAPS Act of 2021).”.

SEC. 8. COMPTROLLER GENERAL REPORT.

Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Oversight and Reform of the House of Representatives a report that—

(1) assesses the completeness, timeliness, quality, accuracy, accessibility, and useful-

ness of the information reported pursuant to section 6 and the amendment made by section 6; and

(2) identifies any Federal programs, including any domestic assistance programs or other programs, that—

(A) use core-based statistical area delineations for any non-statistical purpose; and

(B) as of the date of the report, are not reported pursuant to section 6 and the amendment made by section 6; and

(3) if appropriate, includes any recommendations for Federal agencies or Congress based on the findings described in paragraphs (1) and (2).

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this measure.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, S. 1941, the Metropolitan Areas Protection and Standardization, or MAPS Act, focuses on a little-known process at the Office of Management and Budget that may seem arcane at first glance, but which has profound implications for the way the Federal Government serves the people of this Nation.

OMB maintains a set of standards to ensure consistency across the Federal Government in how agencies classify statistics by geographic area. These standards determine whether a county is considered “metropolitan” based on its proximity to an urban core. Although these standards are supposed to be used solely for statistical purposes, they are frequently used by Federal agencies to distribute funding, benefits, and programs.

Every 10 years, OMB considers recommendations from an interagency technical advisory committee, with input from the public, to ensure the continued relevance of the standards.

The recommendations for 2020 standards initially included a proposal that, for a county to qualify as metropolitan, it must be near an urban core with a population of 100,000, doubling the current threshold of 50,000 people.

Because this threshold hasn’t been changed since it first came into use in 1949, the proposed change would have converted 142 metropolitan statistical areas from the metropolitan designation to the nonmetropolitan designation.

According to the Brookings Institute, this would have impacted 19 million people and increased the share of

America's population residing in nonmetro counties from 14 percent to around 20 percent.

There is currently no inventory of all Federal programs that rely on the standard to distribute services, benefits, and funding, and no process for ensuring that agencies are equipped to review the impacts of potential changes on such programs.

As a result, what should be a purely statistical standards update actually has unknown and potentially profound ramifications for Federal program administration, warranting further review.

While the Standards Review Committee and OMB ultimately chose not to recommend or include this change in the final 2020 Standards, examination of the recommendation make clear that Congress must ensure that these statistical standards can be updated without the risk of unintended consequences cascading across the Federal programs and policies built around them.

To accomplish this, the MAPS Act would clarify that changes to the standards would not propagate automatically for any nonstatistical use by a domestic assistance program. Changes for nonstatistical uses could only take effect if the relevant agency determines that they support the purposes of the program and are in the public interest, and if such changes are affirmatively adopted through notice-and-comment rulemaking.

The bill would also create an inventory of the current uses and impacts of the standards in distributing Federal services, benefits, funding, creating transparency for both policymakers and the public.

In short, the MAPS Act puts in place the safeguards needed to ensure that the Federal Government's bedrock statistical standards can be updated purely based on scientific criteria, without the influence of nonstatistical considerations.

At the same time, it ensures that Federal policies and programs continue to operate as intended and are updated with careful consideration of their unique goals and impacts.

I urge my colleagues to support this responsible, good government bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, S. 1941, the Metropolitan Areas Protection and Standardization Act, or MAPS Act, is a technical but important bill.

Maintaining government-wide statistical standards may seem mundane, but these standards have real-world consequences. We saw this last year when the Office of Management and Budget tried to make updates to the definition of core-based statistical areas. Out of the 734 public comments submitted, 712 comments opposed definitional change. As a result, the Office of Management and Budget delayed its proposed recommendation.

Municipalities and other organizations should not feel caught off guard by standards changes in the future. The MAPS Act will help provide transparency if the Office of Management and Budget tries to revise core-based statistical area standards in the future.

This bill will provide better visibility into how these statistical standards are used in Federal domestic assistance programs to determine funding eligibility; and the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the National Rural Health Association, and the National Association of Counties all agree that this legislation is needed.

I thank Senators ROB PORTMAN and JERRY MORAN, as well as Chairman GARY PETERS, for moving this bipartisan bill through the Senate.

I also take a moment to thank CAROLYN MALONEY, the chairwoman, and Ranking Member JAMES COMER for advancing this legislation through the House Oversight Committee. I support this legislation, and I encourage my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman from Pennsylvania has no further speakers, then I am prepared to close. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

Mr. Speaker, S. 1941 will provide transparency into the Office of Management and Budget's work in the area of statistical standards. This bill does not restrict OMB from continuing its work keeping important statistical standards up to date. Instead, it provides transparency into future revisions of core-based statistical area standards. It also provides visibility into use of such standards in Federal domestic assistance programs.

I once again encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of S. 1941, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 1941.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ARMY SPECIALIST JOSEPH "JOEY" W. DIMOCK II POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7899) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 75

Commerce Drive in Grayslake, Illinois, as the "Army Specialist Joseph 'Joey' W. Dimock II Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7899

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. ARMY SPECIALIST JOSEPH "JOEY" W. DIMOCK II POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 75 Commerce Drive in Grayslake, Illinois, shall be known and designated as the "Army Specialist Joseph 'Joey' W. Dimock II Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Army Specialist Joseph 'Joey' W. Dimock II Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 7899, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 75 Commerce Drive in Grayslake, Illinois, as the "Army Specialist Joseph 'Joey' Dimock II Post Office Building."

Army Specialist Dimock was born in Libertyville on May 25, 1989, to Joseph and Ellen Dimock. He grew up in Wildwood, Illinois, and graduated from Warren Township High School. Growing up, he was a member of the Wildwood Presbyterian Church, Boy Scout Troop 672, and the Warren Blue Devils swim team.

In the spring of his senior year of high school, Army specialist Dimock joined the Army and began service in August of 2007. He served for nearly 3 years with the 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment.

On July 10, 2010, during his third overseas deployment and second deployment in Afghanistan supporting Operation Enduring Freedom, he died in a noncombat explosion at an ammunition holding facility.

Army Specialist Dimock received several awards during his service to this country, including the Bronze Star Medal and Army Commendation Medal.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in honoring the life and service of